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**HALL, MYERS, VANDE SANDE & PEQUIGNOT, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GEOFFREY R. MYERS  
THOMAS J. VANDE SANDE  
MATTHEW A. PEQUIGNOT  
DENNIS A. POSTER

10220 RIVER ROAD, SUITE 200  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854  
TELEPHONE: (301) 983-2500  
FACSIMILE: (301) 983-2100

Patent, Trademark  
and Copyright Law  
and Litigation

OF COUNSEL  
WILLIAM D. HALL

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TO: Examiner David J. Parsley; Art Unit No. 3643 DEC 15 2004

FIRM: U.S. Patent Office

FAX/SPEED NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

FROM: Geoffrey R. Myers, Esquire

RE: USSN 10/647,211 for Conaway

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 (includes cover sheet)

OPERATOR: Karen Ng

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## MESSAGE:

For use as a discussion point at the 2:00 interview, is a new suggested independent claim,  
which follows your kind suggestions in your fax of December 14, 2004.

Geoffrey R. Myers

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(Suggested Claim) De-feathering apparatus comprising:

a plurality of elongating picking elements comprising structures selected from the group consisting of: filaments, fibers, bristles, wires, and substantially rigid threads, said elements consist essentially of a material which has a mass per unit length which is substantially less than rubber;

said picking elements have first and second ends, said first ends being affixed to at least a first rotatable unit connected to a motor driven system for causing rotation of said rotatable unit and which is functionally installed on a motorized picking apparatus comprising:

a first bank of rotatable units having a plurality of said picking elements affixed thereon; and

a second bank of rotatable units having a plurality of said picking elements affixed thereon, said second bank of rotatable units located so as to be spaced apart from and substantially opposite said first bank of rotatable units such that said first and said second banks of rotatable units define a space therebetween for passage of a line of poultry therethrough.